Pocahontas County

HAMLIN CHAPEL (Methodist Church) -- Stony Creek

Organized before 1835, exact date unknown -- Built 1835

ust 31, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.
Pocahontas County

Chapter 6 - Section 1

HAMLIN CHAPEL - 1835

Hamlin Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church was organized sometime before 1835 but the exact date is not known. They had services around at the different homes until the log church was built in 1835. It was named after Hamilton Duffield, the father of John Duffield, who gave the land and timber for the Hamlin Chapel. The deed recorded in Deed Book 2 shows one acre and ten poles on Stony Creek about one-half mile from Onoto from John R. Duffield to John McNeel, Robert Moore, James E. Moore, John R. Duffield, and Samuel Young, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Duffield was class leader as long as he lived.

The first talk of building a church was at a revival meeting held in a large barn belonging to Phoebe McNeill at Swago, now owned by Judge George W. McClintic.

The main builders were: William Baxter, who superintended the work. He was elected Justice of the Peace about this time and continued in this office for many years. Henry Duncan, an apprentice carpenter, who came to Huntersville and helped build the Court House and jail and then helped build the first brick Oak Grove Church at Hillsboro, where he found his wife Patsy Baxter. John Barlow, John Auldridge, who was an expert hewer. William McCollum, who was a stone mason. There were nineteen families and all of them helped with the labor as there was no money to be given.

The lumber for the church was manufactured by William Cochran, Sr., and William A. Young on a water mill near Porter Sharp's place. It was built of hewed logs, cracks clinked and daubed, shaved shingle roof, gallery all the way around on both sides and front, and the seats were long benches with slat backs. There is a door at one end of the building and an elevated pulpit at the back.

Some years later the side galleries were removed in order to make the church lighter. Some of the benches were replaced by chairs. The church was then ceiled with yellow lin. These repairs were made about 1780 by George P. Moore, John W. Tyler, C. B. Vanreenan, all of these men were afterwards ministers, and Washington Moore.

The church was used by both Methodists and Presbyterians until 1929 when the Presbyterians built a church directly across the road from the "Old Log Church" as Hamlin Chapel is called by everyone.

The first families who attended within a radius of eight or ten miles were:

Robert Moore

Capt. William Moore (a school teacher)

Andrew Moore

William Young

William Duncan

Andy Duffield

Abraham Griffin

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Eli McCarty

Josiah Friel

John Smith

Joseph Brock

The Ewings Jamily

In May, 1854, Colonel Samuel Young preached here and made an appointment for forty years from that date. He did not live to fill the appointment but a memorial service was held for him May 3, 1894.

From 1875 to 1884 the following Methodist ministers held services in this church:

Rev. Clemmens

Rev. A. A. P. Neal

Rev. Harper

Rev. Wickline

Rec. Richardson 1878-1879

Revs. Hedrick and Hill 1881-1882. Rev. Hill also taught at the Pine Grove School.

Rev. Wickline 1882-1883

Rev. Chapel 1883-1884

Rev. George P. Moore preached and taught school during this time.

At this period in the history of this church there was a recess of twenty-three years. That is the Methodists did not use the church for that period of time. The reason for this was that the new church had been built at Edray and all of the members attended services there. However, the

Presbyterians used the building during this period and had services once a month.

It was just before the recess that Washington Moore, who was quite a "joker", made the remark that he had apples bigger than pumpkins. They had him up before the Presiding Elder to try him for making such a remark. Mr. Moore said that he was talking about big apples and little pumpkins. Sure enough, when he got his big apples and little pumpkins the apples were larger than the pumpkins, so he was exonerated.

During the twenty-three years recess, the following ministers from other denominations preached at Hamlin Chapel:

Dr. Wm. T. Price - Presbyterian

Rev. S. G. Callison - Baptist Missionary

Rev. Wellington Hogsett and Howard Underwood, local preachers, held revival meetings during this period. In 1896 Rev. Hogsett held one of the greatest revivals ever held in this county. The mourners bench was always full. The story is told of one woman who always took her hair down before she shouted so she wouldn't lose her hair pins. I am told that the people could be heard for miles around singing and shouting on their way home from these revival meetings.

After this recess the church was in a very bad state of repair. So there were a number of improvements made before it was "picked up again", that is the way they expressed it. These improvements were made by: George Baxter, P. L. Carter, George M. Moore, E. F. McLaughlin, and others contributed

money and labor. Later it was reroofed by George H. Moore. The last repairs were done by: Asa Barlow, Levi Baxter, Adam Moore, James Sharp and others.

The following ministers served the church after the recess:

Methodist:

G. W. Marston	1906 - 1909
Ira Ricket	1909 - 1913
H. A. Coffman	1913 - 1916
C. M. Ramsey	1916 - 1920
C. A. Powers	1920 - 1923
Nelson Hill	1923 - 1929
Thomas Taylor	1929 - 1933
D. A. Carder	1933 - 1936
D. J. Combs	1936 - 1938
R. H. Skaggs	1938 ------

The Rev. Skaggs is very much liked by everyone in the County who knows him. He has nine children. When he came to -dray, seven of the children were at home, all grown. All of his children play some sort of a musical instrument and sing and Mr. Skaggs sings also, so when there is no choir, he takes his choir with him. Altogether Mr. Skaggs serves nine churches.

Today there are only about fifteen members in this church. They have preaching services every fourth Sabbath afternoon and singing services the second Sabbath evening of each month.

In 1893 and 1894 there was a Union Sabbath School at

this church. There has been no Sabbath School since 1928.

On July 28, 1940 there was an anniversary service held at Hamlin Chapel comemorating the one hundred fifth anniversary of the church. There were about four hundred persons present. As the church is very small and very few of the people could get inside, the services were held in a grove of trees just outside the church. Dr. McCusky of West Virginia Wesleyan made an address. Mr. William Gilmore of West Union and Mr. Davis Barlow of Huntington gave the History of the church. There was a great deal of singing by two or three different choirs. Besides Rev. H. R. Skaggs, there were two former pastors of the church present, Rev. D. R. Carder and Rev. D. J. Combs. Dinner was served on the ground to every person there. After all had eaten until they could eat no more, food was carried away in bushel baskets. The services lasted all day.

During the year of 1875 the following persons attended Sabbath School at Hamlin Chapel:

S. B. Moore, Supt.

George K. Gay, Assistant Supt.

Joe Young)
&) Secretaries
A. J. Smith)

Bill Jackson, Librarian

Henry Barlow and wife

George P. Moore

John Duffield

Andrew Duffield

Dr. P. D. Carter

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Geo. Baxter	Jenny Kellison Simmons
Sarah Poage Baxter	Nan Simmons
Rev. John Waugh	Rachel Duffield
Catherine Cochran Sharp	Catherine Duffield Kellison
Wm. Cochran	N. S. Duffield
Harper Moore	Nancy Duffield Ratliff
Catherine Moore	Mary Gay Gum
Loretta Duncan Gilmore	Agnes Gay
John Tyler and wife	John Gay
Jane Duncan Moore	Jenny Gay
Uriah Beverage	C. F. Gay
Susan Beverage	Register Moore
Jacke Beverage	Mary Ann Baxter Moore
Frances Beverage Wooddell	Aaron Moore
Hannah Beverage McNeel	Jane Moore McCollum
Caroline Beverage Smith	Lorance McCollum
Perry, James and Thomas Townsend	Wils Alderman
Jenny Townsend Beverage	Mary Overholt McCollum
Sally Townsend McLaughlin	James O. Ratliff and wife
Rev. C. B. Vanreenan and wife	Wallace Jackson
George Vanreenan	John Gay, Sr.
Frances Vanreenan	Sarah Ann Gay
Peachy Vanreenan Totten	George McCollum
William Vanreenan	Willard Overholt
Bob Simmons	James Sharp
Warwick Simmons	Dave Sharp
Milt Simmons	Mary Sharp Dilley

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Josephine Gay Mann
... R. Gay
Grant Smith
Dave McClure
Mary McClure Baxter
Nancy McClure Lindsay
Jacob McClure
Sally McClure Shearer
John W. McClure
Alex Barlow and wife
Wesley Barlow and wife
John Henry Barlow
Joe Barlow
Lizzie Barlow Sharp
Joe Barlow, Sr. and wife
Martha Barlow Hill
Mary Barlow Gay
Amos Gay
Silas Barlow
Nathan Barlow and wife
Geo. Y. Barlow
Demie Barlow Galford
Pleas Barlow
A. T. Moore and wife
J. K. Moore
Anna Moore Sharp
Bob Moore

Alwilda Moore Young
Lula Moore Barlow
James Auldridge and wife
George Auldridge
Mary Auldridge Carter
Burton Curtis
Lee, Fanny and Lilly Carter
John, Neal, Anderson and Davis Barlow.
Alice Barlow Gay
Ruth Barlow White
Wm. H. Auldridge
Jack Waugh and wife
Ison Waugh
Lizzie Waugh
J. W. Baxter
Adam Baxter
Birdie Baxter
Wm. Baxter and wife
Samuel Baxter
Leanna Baxter Vanreenan
Washington Moore
Ella Moore Smith
John Malcolm
Tom Kellison
Pat Poage
Ida Smith

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

James McCollum

Morella Smith

Of the one hundred forty names given above, thirty-eight are living today.

To my knowledge this is the only old log church in good repair and in regular use in the county.

Information from:

Mr. Anderson Barlow, Mr. Davis Barlow, and Mr. William Gilmore. These men got their information from the older members of the church, none of whom are living. The list of Sabbath School pupils was made from memory by Mr. Anderson and Davis Barlow. They attended the School.

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